



PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Washington State Board of Health

June 13, 2013

Barry Kling, MSPH

Chelan-Douglas Health District: Basics and Beyond



PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Today I'll talk about:

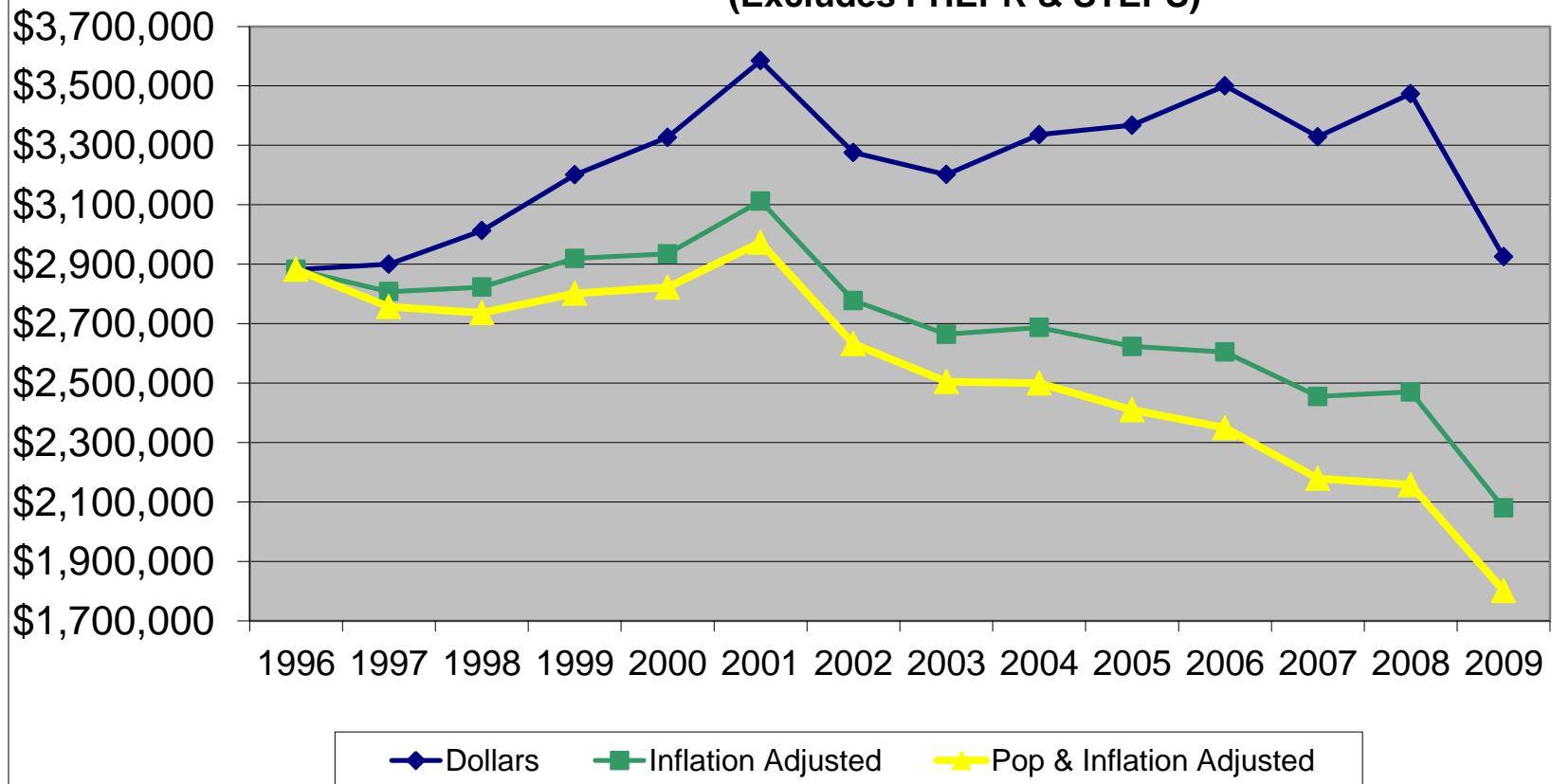
- ❖ What the Health District has been through in recent years regarding
 - ❖ Finances
 - ❖ Staffing
 - ❖ Programs
- ❖ The way this experience forced us to think clearly about basic public health.
- ❖ A new initiative on sustainable funding for Foundational Public Health Services.



PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Core Public Health Funding

Chelan-Douglas Health District 1996-2009
(Excludes PHEPR & STEPS)

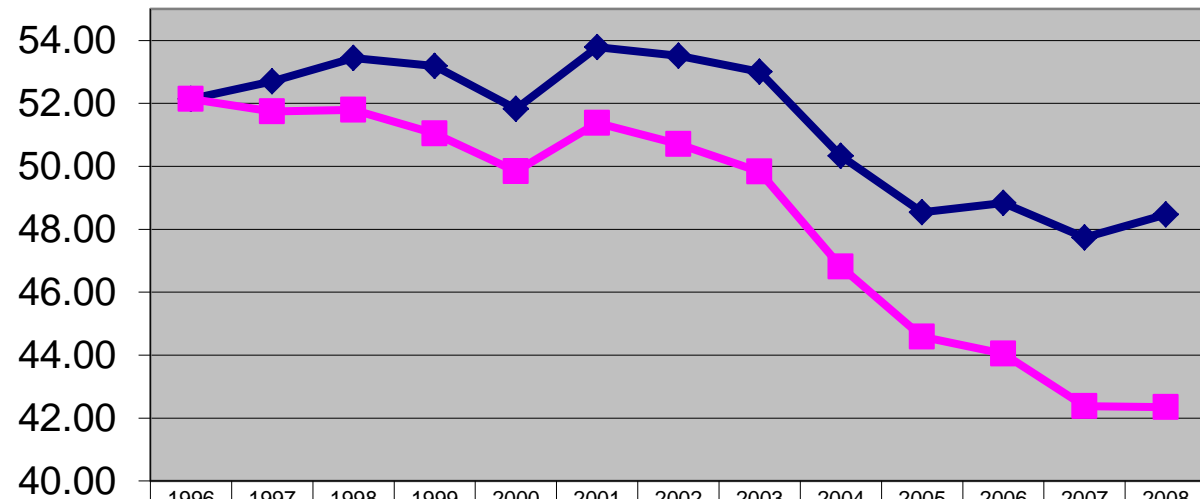




PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Core Public Health FTEs

Chelan-Douglas Health District 1996-2008 (Excludes PHEPR & STEPS)



	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Core FTEs	52.14	52.70	53.44	53.19	51.82	53.79	53.51	53.00	50.33	48.54	48.83	47.74	48.47
Core FTEs per 100K Population	52.14	51.74	51.80	51.04	49.84	51.38	50.71	49.83	46.81	44.58	44.04	42.38	42.35

Core FTEs Core FTEs per 100K Population



PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Program Impact

- ❖ EH cut in half – mainly in response to economy. Will bounce back in response to recovery.
- ❖ MCH ravaged and no obvious prospect for recovery.
- ❖ ~300 vulnerable families annually
- ❖ Had 12 PHNs, will soon have 3



PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Bad Policy...

- ❖ Except for the alternatives.
- ❖ We could not afford MCH if we kept doing CD, TB and Imms.
- ❖ We kept CD, TB and Imms because no one else in community does it.
- ❖ Home visiting can be done by others, and is to a limited extent.
- ❖ Even Imms reduced – give few shots.



PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Forced to think

- ❖ ...about what really is basic for public health.
- ❖ Is a local health department just a random collection of services someone will pay for?
- ❖ Or does a health department bring something to the community that no one else brings?
- ❖ Is there any principle that distinguishes basic from other public health functions?



PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Possible explanations

- ❖ Public health is prevention – but so is a lot of clinical care.
- ❖ Public health is what improved life expectancy since 1900 – but what about the next 100 years.
- ❖ Public health is about social determinants – but there are many players there, so this isn't what distinguishes public health from other agencies or health care organizations.



PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

What distinguishes public health?

- ❖ What distinguishes public health from the rest of the health care system is our focus on the ***population based principle***.
- ❖ The most basic purpose of public health is to address population-based health problems that cannot be adequately addressed by our individually-oriented medical care system.
- ❖ We used this principle to establish our priorities while downsizing.



PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Population based

- ❖ If your health department does a good job of assuring safe drinking water, makes sure the food is safe when you eat out, and controls disease outbreaks quickly...
- ❖ Which one of your neighbors didn't get sick as a result?
- ❖ You don't know. So you can't bill his insurance company.
- ❖ The benefit is real, but the individual beneficiary can't be identified.
- ❖ That's why these things must be done by the community. They're population-based.



PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

We also noticed...

- ❖ ...the lack of a sustainable funding system for basic public health in this state.
- ❖ One that tracks with population growth and keeps up with inflation.
- ❖ One that could keep us from sinking further, to the point where even the basics are beyond our reach.



PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

But supposed you asked.

- ❖ Suppose you asked legislators for a sustainable funding base.
- ❖ The first question would be, what would we get for the money?
- ❖ “Trust me” ends the conversation.
- ❖ So defining public health basics is not just about criteria for program reduction.
- ❖ It’s also a prerequisite for any serious effort to establish a sustainable funding base for public health.



PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

IOM also made this connection

- ❖ “For the Public’s Health: Investing in a Healthier Future” is a study of public health finance nationally, issued by IOM in 2012.
- ❖ It calls repeatedly for the public health community to provide a clear definition of basic public health...
- ❖ As a prerequisite for a serious effort to establish base funding at the state and national level.
- ❖ CDC’s leadership has said they will lead a national discussion on the basics.



PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Is sustainable funding possible?

- ❖ Yes but it could take years.
- ❖ On the other hand, it will never spring spontaneously from the legislature.
- ❖ It won't happen unless we do it.
- ❖ It took 8 years to get a separate Department of Health and it would be worth it if this takes just as long.
- ❖ Through PHIP, a group of state and local public health leaders is working to make this happen.



PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Sustainable funding initiative

- ❖ First, define Foundational Public Health Services.
- ❖ Second, cost them out.
- ❖ Third, develop potential funding models.
- ❖ Fourth, a broad-based advocacy effort with many partners.
- ❖ Fifth, don't quit.



PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Defining Foundational Services

- ❖ A PHIP workgroup developed the list in 2011-2012, vetting it widely in the public health community in the summer of 2012.
- ❖ List has boundaries.
- ❖ Answers the question, what basics must be in place everywhere for the public health system to work well anywhere?
- ❖ Applies the population based principle.



PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Foundational Services, cont'd...

- ❖ Cross-cutting capabilities and specific programs.
- ❖ Concrete enough to be costed.
- ❖ Just the foundation, not the whole house.



PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Costing the Foundational Services

- ❖ Through PHIP, retained a consultant (Berk & Assoc) to develop cost model – state and local.
- ❖ Worked extensively with DOH and a sample of 9 LHJs of varying size, from Sea-King to Lincoln County.
- ❖ Results about to become available.



PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Next Steps

- ❖ Share the cost model results.
- ❖ PHIP workgroup takes the lead in developing policy options for sustainable funding.
- ❖ WSALPHO-led workgroup takes the lead on advocacy and coalition development.



PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Questions & Discussion